

- (1) Number of pages 4
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1872	Press
B.P. No.		Mis. ☒
Dated	8.8.1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 337. Read the following letter from J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Pullampett, 4th July 1876, No. 23:—

WITH reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1,300, dated 24th May 1876, I have the honor to state that I have carefully inspected the Cheyair channels, together with the Range Officer Mr. Schoury, and beg to forward the following report, &c.

2. I send herewith a sketch of the river and the channels, kindly prepared for me by Mr. Schoury. The red line along each bank shows the lay of the new river embankment, the survey of which Colonel Mullins mentions as not having been completed at the time of his visit.

3. Nos. 1 and 2 are the two channels alluded to by Colonel Mullins, for which he proposes to have one head sluice as near to Pagoda Point, as the Shrotriom channel (3) will allow abolishing "the several independent heads of the river channels, heads which are by no means efficient, and which have to be carried far out into the river." I feel somewhat diffident in opposing my opinion to that of so able an Engineer as Colonel Mullins, but having had an opportunity of seeing the river in the midst of a very dry season, it is possible that my reasons may induce Colonel Mullins to reconsider his opinion.

4. A new head sluice might be formed somewhere between the village marked on the sketch and Pagoda Point, but I do not think that the channels would thereby obtain an improved supply. For the greater part of the year, when this river is scarcely more than a dry bed of sand, water is only brought into the channels by digging long channels in the river bed, extending some of them over a mile. As the season gets more dry, these channels are deepened and lengthened, and at present some are as much as 5 feet deep. It is clear, therefore, that even if the head sluice were moved higher up, and nearer to Pagoda Point, in the dry season the channels would still have to be dug as far into the river bed as they now are, and the more the water sinks below the level of the sand the further they would have to be dug. The advantage of having these independent heads (shown in the sketch by dotted lines) is that each channel obtains an independent drainage. If there were only one head sluice, there would be only one head leading to it, and the channel would, I fear, obtain a smaller supply. This remark equally applies to the channels A, B, C and D on the opposite side of the river, which I believe Colonel Mullins proposed to feed from one head sluice at A. When I inspected them, some of these heads were dry, and others had a good stream in them. Had all the channels been supplied from one head sluice, and one head, the supply would have been much smaller. Again, it is the immediate duty of the ryots to dig out these channels in the river bed each year, and there only one head sluice for several channels, there would be constant disputes as to whose duty it was to dig, and when water was brought to the sluice, there would be disputes as to its division. Nor would there, I think, be any head sluice for several channels. The work would be very much increased at present, and fresh channels would have to be dug. The channel must necessarily have been in the hands of the ryots to dig out these channels, requiring much labor. Were the ryots would be constantly digging in the bed, and when the water was brought to the sluice, there would be fresh disputes regarding the division of the water. It is of course larger than it is at present, and fresh channels would have to be dug from it at considerable cost to lead

into the already existing channels. The present head sluices to the different channels are by no means costly. They consist of a masonry wall with a vent at the bottom. If the new plan and estimate for the embankment is sanctioned, it is proposed to build these head sluices in the embankment at the places where they now are—Channels A and B are already provided with good head sluices, and probably no others will be required—Channels 1 and 2 and C and D have no sluices. Under these circumstances, I am inclined to think that it would be better to adhere to the existing arrangements, which are well understood, and which avoid the occurrence of disputes.

5. It will be noticed that the new survey provides for the embankment parallel to the river on the south side running westwards until it joins the high ground at Pagoda Point, which is what Colonel Mullins suggests. This bank will, as will also that on the opposite side of the river, effectually cover all the channels from future floods.

6. The other points alluded to in paragraph 3 of the Government Order under reply have been noticed, and reports are expected in due course.

No. 337-A.

No. 94-W.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

It would probably be practicable to obviate the objections urged by the Acting Collector of Cuddapah to the provision of one head near Pagoda Point for the Annagorpully and Manoor tank channels, but his views as to the advantage of maintaining dependent heads as at present in order to avoid disputes may readily be accepted.

2. The undersigned has not expressed or entertained any idea of concentrating the heads of the channels on the left bank of the Cheyair above the Railway.

OOTACAMUND,

14th July 1876.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,

Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

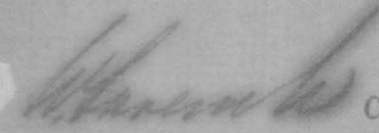
No. 338.

ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1876, No. 1,840.

IRRIGATION, No. 35.

RECORDED with reference to G.O.,
No. 1,300, of the 24th May 1876.

(True Extract.)

 Colonel,
Jg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Collector of Cuddapah.

„ District Engineer of Cuddapah.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation

„ Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. W. H. French.

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To

THE COLLECTOR OF CUDDAPAH,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 20th.

Issued

Recd. *5. Aug 1/76*

Encl.

G. O., 20th July 1876, No. 1,840.

Dr. Mr.

JULY.

Nos. 337-338.

11 To the Board of Revenue
Cheyair Channels, Cuddapah District.—
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation,
submitting with remarks the report of the
Acting Collector on the —, recorded.

Dr 1876
communicated to the Board

8 August 1876

New No. Sectt. I (i)-1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,006—10-6-63.

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